

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
ON
THE HEALTH
AND
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
TOWN AND URBAN DISTRICT
OF
BEXHILL,

BY
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BEXHILL

Urban District Council

Medical Officer's Report,

1894.

C. WIGGINS, M.O.H.

Bexhill-on Sea:

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FEBRUARY, 1895.

*To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bexhill
Urban District Council.*

The estimated population of the Town at the end of 1894 was 6,770, showing an estimated increase of 530 on that of 1893.

I have followed the practice of my predecessors in allowing 5 persons to each house for the purpose of arriving at the estimate.

There are at the present time 1354, inhabited houses, as against 1,248 at the end of 1893, showing an increase for the year of 106 houses.

During the year there were 183 births registered (81 males and 102 females), showing an increase of 10 upon the number registered for 1893.

I append a table showing the number of Births registered annually for the last 6 years, and one notices how the female births for the last two years have exceeded the male---

Year.	No. of Children born.	Male.	Female.
1889	143	70	73
1890	154	78	76
1891	152	74	78
1892	152	75	77
1893	173	79	94
1894	183	81	102

The Birth Rate for the year is 27·03 per 1,000 inhabitants, as against 27·7 for 1893, showing a slight decrease.

There occurred in the Town 78 deaths ; 40 of these were males and 38 females.

This shows an increase of 6 deaths over the number registered in 1893.

In order to arrive at a comparative Death Rate, I am deducting from the total number of deaths the following :—

2	deaths in the Convalescent Home
2	„ „ Nazareth Home
2	„ by Suicide
1	„ „ Drowning (washed ashore)
4	„ of Visitors
—	
11	

leaving 67 deaths, and making a Death Rate for the year of 9·89 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared with a Rate of 11·57 for 1893.

This, Gentlemen, is the lowest Death Rate recorded in our Town, and will alone speak for the sanitary state of our houses and the health-giving properties of our bracing climate.

The number of deaths registered under 1 year were	13
„ „ „ over 1 and under 5 „	5
„ „ „ „ 5 „ 15 „	4
„ „ „ „ 15 „ 25 „	4
„ „ „ „ 25 „ 65 „	28
„ „ „ „ 65	24
—	78

You will notice that of the total number registered, nearly a third were over 65 years of age.

Five deaths occurred from the principal Zymotic diseases:—

Typhoid Fever	...	1
Scarlatina	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	2
Erysipelas	...	1

producing a Zymotic Death Rate of .73 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Twenty-eight cases of Scarlatina were notified, four cases in children under 5, with one death, and 24 in children over five, with no fatality.

The greater number of these cases occurred at the commencement of the year, and there was great reason to suspect that two or three children contracted the disease during a visit to a neighbour-

ing town, and children from the infected houses going to School, were the means of spreading the disease. All the School Teachers were at once informed of the names and addresses of the patients, and all others in the infected houses were excluded from school attendance.

I also visited the National Schools and pointed out to the teachers the principal symptoms of the disease, and a good many children were sent home whilst attending School in the early stage of the Fever; and I believe, by these precautions, what might have been a serious epidemic was rapidly stamped out.

I have great pleasure in reporting to you that not a single case of Diphtheria was notified to me throughout the year.

Eight cases of Typhoid Fever were notified during the year, one of which proved fatal. Three of them were attributed to defective drainage, which was immediately remedied under notice, and one patient came from London with the disease upon him.

One case of English Cholera was notified during the Summer, and this, fortunately, did not prove fatal.

Eleven cases of Erysipelas came to my knowledge, one of which terminated fatally in a patient aged 73.

TABLE OF ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	Under 5.	Over 5.
Scarlatina	4	24
Typhoid Fever	1	7
Relapsing „	—	1
English Cholera	—	1
Erysipelas	—	11
Measles	12	1

I very much regret that two deaths from Whooping Cough were registered.

I would recommend your Council to consider the advisability of having this disease scheduled under “The notification of Infectious Diseases Act,” as you would then have certain control through your Medical Officer over children in Infected Houses.

They would be excluded from School attendance, and thus the chief source of Infection would be immediately got rid of.

It is satisfactory to find there were no deaths registered from Infantile Diarrhœa.

Only one death was ascribed to Influenza.

TABLE OF DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	Male.		Female.		Total
	Under 5	Over 5	Under 5	Over 5	
Convulsions	2	1	2		4
Cancer		2		1	3
Diseases of the Organs of Circulation ...		7		9	16
Ditto of Respiration ...	2	2	1	4	9
Ditto Urinary Organs...		4		1	5
Ditto Digestive „ ...		1		3	4
Ditto Nervous System...		2		3	5
Drowning		1			1
Erysipelas		1			1
Debility from Birth ...	3		2		5
Scarlet Fever	1				1
Typhoid Fever... ..		1			1
Relapsing Fever		1			1
Whooping Cough	1		1		2
Influenza				1	1
Suicide		1		1	2
Periostitis				1	1
Old Age		4		4	8
Scrofulous Disease ...		2	1		3
Phthisis... ..		2		3	5
Total	9	31	7	31	78

Four deaths were registered that were not medically certified, or 5·12 per cent. of total number of deaths. They were as follows:—

1	from	Convulsions,	aged	14	months.
1	„	Phthisis,	„	36	years.
1	„	Senile Decay	„	69	„
1	„	Cardiac Syncope	„	42	„

Three inquests were held in the town upon the bodies of two males and one female.

One died by cutting her throat.

„ shooting himself with a revolver.

One body washed ashore, not belonging to the town.

Among the Public Institutions in the town, I include the following:—Metropolitan Convalescent Home; Nazareth Home; Daisy Home; Young Women's Christian Association Home; and the Lady Brassey Home.

The deaths that took place in these Homes are as follows:—

Name of Home.	No.	Cause of Death.
Metropolitan Convalescent Home	2	Circulatory Disease
Nazareth Home	2	Scrofulous „
		Nervous „
		Circulatory „
Young Women's Christian Home	1	Periostitis

BAKEHOUSES.

During the Summer all the Bakehouses in the district, numbering 13, were inspected and all the owners were served with notices to put their premises in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition, which work, in all cases, was carried out to my entire satisfaction.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspector.

- 26 Houses redrained.
- 1 Polluted Well closed.
- 2 Offensive Manure Heaps ordered to be removed.
- 16 Houses and Rooms cleansed.
- 2 Animals ordered to be kept cleanly.
- 1 Case of Over-crowding abated.
- 8 Old Closets cleansed or removed.
- 1 Cesspool cleansed.
- 4 Houses supplied with town water, previously using wells.
- 3 Stables drained.
- 3 Cellars drained.
- 6 Ventilation Shafts to Public Sewers.

The principal works carried out under the supervision of your Surveyor, Mr. Dodgson Graves, in connection with Private Street Improvements during the year have been :

- The paving of Belle Hill.
- Laying of Sewers in Parkhurst and Linden Roads.
- Paving of East side of Sea Road.
- Devonshire Square paved, channelled, and metalled,

Besides these, the sewers have been laid in two Private Roads on the De la Warr Estate, and the works in connection with the west side of Sea Road and Upper Station Road have been well advanced, and lastly a large number of extra Gas Lamps have been placed generally over the town.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

The weather during the year was, as in all other parts of the country, extremely unsatisfactory, the rainfall being in excess and the sunshine very much less than the average.

Below I give the details of the three most interesting subjects in connection with the daily records.

RAINFALL.

Month.	Inches.	Greatest amount on any one day.	Date.	No. of days on which no rain was regd.
January ...	2·64	·34 inches	25th	6
February ...	1·94	·32 „	17th	13
March ...	1·09	·20 „	13th	17
April ...	2·01	·74 „	24th	17
May ...	1·55	·34 „	26th	16
June ...	1·32	·51 „	6th	17
July ...	5·60	1·75 „	6th	12
August ...	1·48	·27 „	11th	16
September ...	3·57	1·15 „	7th	17
October ...	4·66	1·17 „	30th	12
November ...	2·91	·51 „	14th	15
December ...	1·64	·45 „	7th	18
Total ...	30·41			176

SUNSHINE.

Month.	hrs. mins.	No. of days on which no Sunshine was recorded.	Greatest amount on any one day. hrs. min.	Dat .
Jan. ...	77 40	7	7 10	24th
Feb. ...	103 5	9	9 0	19th
March ...	207 35	0	11 15	27th
April ...	184 0	1	11 30	27th
May ...	217 25	0	13 35	24th
June ...	193 30	0	14 10	29th
July ...	198 45	2	13 15	1st
Aug. ...	154 0	1	11 0	31st
Sept. ...	115 0	3	10 15	11th
Oct. ...	76 50	6	8 30	2nd
Nov. ...	95 0	9	8 5	6th
Dec. ...	53 25	12	6 25	3rd
	1675 45	50		

MEAN TEMPERATURE FOR EACH MONTH.

		Average Maximum.	Average Minimum.
January	...	42·4	34·6
February	...	46·7	37·2
March	...	47·7	39·7
April	...	55·5	46·1
May	...	57·5	44·5
June	...	63·4	51·1
July	...	67·5	56·5
August	...	65·7	55·2
September	...	63·2	48·3
October	...	57·8	46·8
November	...	52·8	43·6
December	...	48·5	37·0

Daily Average for year 1894:—

Maximum ... 54·8 | Minimum ... 45·05

Mean Temperature for the year 1894, 49·9.

The total rainfall during the year amounted to 30·41 inches, which is equivalent to about 689,300 gallons of water to every acre of land. This is about 4 or 5 inches above the average.

The total amount of sunshine was 1675·45 hours: very much below the average for this district, and is accounted for by the apparently small amount registered during our four principal months—June, July, August, and September.

	Hours.	Rainfall.
1890 (May to December)	1996	20·71 inches.
1891	1822	31 „
1892	1969	26·92 „
1893	Not kept.	

In concluding my report, Gentlemen, I very much regret not having been able to obtain the report from the Vaccination Officer for the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

CHARLES WIGGINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

